

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7687

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2281

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FOR LOWMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR REFUGEE PAROLE

REF: BANGKOK 0939

1. FOLLOWING RECENT SCREENING OF KHMER REFUGEE CAMPS, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND REVISIONS IN PAROLE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN REFTEL. MOST OF THE CATEGORY I TYPE CASES REMAINING IN THE CAMPS (LESS THAN 80 CASES) ARE MARRIED SIBLINGS OF REFUGEES ALREADY IN THE U.S. MAJORITY OF THESE CASES ARE SMALL FAMILIES CONSISTING OF SPOUSE AND TWO OR THREE CHILDREN. FOR THIS REASON EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER EARLIER DEFINITION OF CAT. I WHICH RESTRICTED PROPLE TO UNMARRIED MINOR SIBLINGS. WE FEEL THAT SLIGHT EXPANSION OF CAT. I IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT LEGITIMATE APPLICANTS UNDER THIS CATEGORY CAN ENTER THE U.S. IN THE EVENT OF EXPANDED PAROLE AUTHORITY. SLIGHT ELAXATION OF CAT. I CRITERIA WILL NOT GREATLY AFFECT LIMITED NUMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM. SINCE A LARGE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE CAT. III APPLICANTS ARE SINGLE.

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2. IN RESPECT TO CAT. III CRITERIA OUTLINED IN REFTEL,

EMBASSY FEELS THAT THIS IS TOO RESTRICTIVE WHEN APPLIED TO KHMER SINCE VERY FEW OF THE KHMER IN THAILAND QUALIFY UNDER A STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THESE CRITERIA. FOR EXAMPLE, A NUMBER OF KHMER APPLICANTS WERE FORMER INFANTRY SERGEANTS WITH EXTENSIVE COMBAT EXPERIENCE. MANY WERE WOUNDED IN BATTLE AND A LARGE NUMBER HAD IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE AND WERE PERSONALLY MARKED FOR EXECUTION BECAUSE OF THEIR

COMMITMENT TO THE FORMER REGIME.,FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A MORE FLEXIBLE POLICY FOR CAT. III BROADENING DEFINITION OF HIGH RISK, WHEN DEPARTMENT NEGOTIATES CATEGORIES WITH INS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO USE CAT. III CRITERIA OUTLINED IN REFTTEL FOR INTERNAL GUIDANCE WHEN SCREENING VIETNAMESE AND LAO APPLICANTS AND PRIORITIZING KHMER.
WHITEHOUSE

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